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DEC 22 2005

In the United States Patent Office

Application Serial No.: 10/694,744
Filing Date: October 29, 2003
Inventor: Higginbotham
Art Unit: 3677
Examiner: Sotelo, Jesus D.
My File: MET20US

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia
22313-1450 U.S.A.

Faxed to (571) 273 8300)

Dear Sirs,

**Preliminary Amendment to the RCE
concurrently being filed**

In response to the Advisory action of December 7, 2005 please amend this application as follows